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ELLESMERE PORT URBAN
DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1942.

BY
W. J. BIRCHALL, M.B. (Hons.),
M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. D.P.H.



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INTRODUCTION

To the Chairman and Members of the Ellesmere Port Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the Urban District for the year, 1942.

The report continues in its abridged form, with the figures for population omitted on instructions from the Ministry of Health.

The general state of the Public Health remained on the whole favourable for the third full year of war.

It is interesting to state here that since immunisation against Diphtheria was commenced in the Urban District in 1936, 4,890 children under 15 years of age have been immunised and general and Local reactions to immunisations have been negligible. This gives approximately 72 per cent. of the child population protected against Diphtheria. For adequate protection of the child population at least 75 per cent. should be immunised.

The Vital Statistics are as follows:—

The Death rate is 8.79 per 1,000 estimated population as against 10.5 the figure for 1941. The Death rate for England and Wales is 11.6.

A corrected death rate is not given as it is not representative owing to movements of the population during the war-time.

The Birth rate is 19.96 per 1,000 population compared with 19.8 for 1941. The figure for England and Wales is 15.8.

The Infant Mortality Rate shows a considerable decrease on last year's figure. Namely 35.8 per 1,000 live births, compared with 72.9 for 1941. The rate for England and Wales is 49.

Housing conditions continue to cause the Health Department some concern in this district. Many instances are brought to our notice of overcrowding, where more than one family occupy rooms in a small house.

It seems impossible to rectify these conditions as the accommodation is not available.

It is apparant that conditions of overcrowding are bound to have an unfavourable effect not only on young children, but also on adults, many of whom are engaged for long hours at their work.

During October of this year the Council erected two War-time Nurseries, one at Whithy Road, Ellesmere Port and the other at Little Sutton, each to accommodate 50 children, with a Staff consisting of, Matron, Sister, and assistant nurses, on the lines indicated by the Ministry of Health.

For the first quarter (October—December, 1942) the average weekly attendance at the Ellesmere Port Nursery was 166, and at Little Sutton 62.

The problem of Scabies and Verminous conditions generally has engaged our active attention during the year. The district has shared with other districts the general increase in the incidence of Scabies and other verminous conditions.

The Sanitary Department has co-operated with the Child Welfare and School Authorities in combating cases of Scabies which have been brought to their notice during the year.

The Department has taken a keen interest in maintaining food standards especially with regard to cleanliness in the production and handling of foodstuffs, notably milk.

High grade food, including milk, produced under conditions of absolute cleanliness is considered to be an important part of the national effort. Any deterioration in quality of cleanliness robs the food of much of its value and invites epidemic diseases.

The Casualty Services continue to operate as an effective organisation ready to be called upon at any time, and capable, I feel sure, of equitting themselves with honour and credit.

I have the pleasure in recording my appreciation of the co-operation which my department has received from the Members of the Council and the Health and Maternity and Child Welfare Committees during the past year, and I thank the members of my staff for their conscientious and loyal assistance.

Yours faithfully,

W. J. BIRCHALL,

Medical Officer of Health.

ELLESMERE PORT URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1942.

The Urban District of Ellesmere Port includes the parishes of Great Stanney, Great Sutton and Ince, and the greater parts of the parishes of Childer Thornton and Little Sutton; also parts of Hooton, Eastham, Thornton-le-Moors and Willaston.

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health: W. J. BIRCHALL, M.B., M.R.C.S.,
L.R.C.P., D.PH.

Orthopœdic Surgeon: T. HARTLEY MARTIN, M.B., B.Ch.

Aural Surgeon: R. MARTIN, M.B., B.Ch.

Gynæ-cologist: MORRIS DATNOW, M.B., F.R.C.S. (EDIN.).

Chief Sanitary Inspector: E. TUFT, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Assistant Sanitary Inspector: J. P. GODDARD, Cert. S.I.B.

(Now serving in H.M. Forces).

Additional Sanitary Inspector: S. JACKSON, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Clerk in the Department: R. K. FRANCIS.

Senior Health Visitor: MISS M. B. REDFERN.

Assistant Health Visitors: MISS K. McKEE.

MISS E. E. PRESCOTT.

All officers employed are fully qualified for the duties they perform and are holders of the recognised qualifications.

Statistics and Social Conditions.

Area (acres)	9,144
Number of houses in the area (1941)...	7,151
Rateable Value	£175,300
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£710

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1942.

(Compiled from figures supplied by Registrar General).

LIVE BIRTHS.

							Males.	Females	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	286	244	530
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	19	9	28
							305	253	558

Birth Rate 19.96 per 1,000 population.

Live birth rate per 1,000 estimated resident population (1942), in 148 smaller towns (population 25,000—50,000 Census 1931)—18.4.

STILL BIRTHS.

							Males.	Females	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	10	23
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
							14	10	24

Still birth rate 43.00 per 1,000 total live and still births or .85 per 1,000 of the population.

The average number of births per annum in the years 1927—1941 was 476.

Birth Rate England and Wales 1942 15.8

Birth Rate England and Wales 1941 14.2

Birth Rate Administrative County of Cheshire 1941 ... 14.2

DEATHS.

Total 246.

Males 147.

Females 99.

Death Rate 8.79 per 1,000 population.

The average number of deaths per annum in the years 1927—41 was 217.

The percentage of deaths occurring in Public Institutions was 52 per cent.

Death Rate—England and Wales 11.6 per 1,000 population.

Death Rate—148 Smaller Towns 12.1 per 1,000 population.

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births	Rate per 1,000 Live Births
Puerperal Sepsis	0	0	0
Other Puerperal causes	0	0	0
	—	—	—
	0	0	0
	—	—	—

The figures for England and Wales were :—

	Death Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births
Puerperal Sepsis	0 42
Other Puerperal causes	1.59
	—
	2.01
	—

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

	Number	Rate
All infants per 1,000 live births	20	35.8
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	18	32.2
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	2	3.5

The figures for England and Wales were :—

All England and Wales	49.0
148 Smaller Towns (estimated resident population 25,000—50,000 Census 1931)	46.0
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns (includ- ing London)	59.0
London (Adm. County)	60.0

Table of Infant Mortality. 1927—1941.

Year	Rate per 1,000 Births	Year	Rate per 1,000 Births
1927	92.0	1935	44.6
1928	64.0	1936	51.7
1929	66.0	1937	66.2
1930	44.0	1938	48.3
1931	68.0	1939	58.93
1932	68.0	1940	63.3
1933	75.0	1941	55.8
1934	48.26		

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	1
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	1
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	34

CAUSES OF DEATH.

ALL CAUSES	Males.	Females.	Total
1.—Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	—	—	—
2.—Cerebro-spinal Fever	1	—	1
3.—Scarlet Fever	—	—	—
4.—Whooping Cough	1	—	1
5.—Diphtheria	3	5	8
6.—Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	4	3	7
7.—Other Tuberculous Diseases	1	—	1
8.—Syphilis	1	1	2
9.—Influenza	—	—	—
10.—Measles	—	—	—
11.—Acute Poliomyelitis and Polio-Encephalitis	1	—	1
12.—Acute Infective Encephalitis	—	—	—
13.—Cancer, all forms of malignant Disease	19	15	34
14.—Diabetes	—	2	2
15.—Intracranial Vascular Lesions	12	12	24
16.—Heart Diseases	37	31	68
17.—Other Circulatory Diseases	5	1	6
18.—Bronchitis	8	3	11
19.—Pneumonia	12	3	15
20.—Other Respiratory Diseases	1	—	1
21.—Ulcer of the Stomach or Duodenum Ulcer	2	—	2
22.—Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	1	—	1
23.—Appendicitis	1	1	2
24.—Other Digestive Diseases	2	1	3
25.—Nephritis (Acute and Chronic)	4	4	8
26.—Puerperal Sepsis	—	—	—
27.—Other Maternal Causes	—	—	—
28.—Premature Births	6	1	7
29.—Congenital Debility, Malformations, Birth injuries etc.	2	6	8
30.—Suicide	1	1	2
31.—Road Traffic Accidents	4	2	6
32.—Other Violent Causes	5	2	7
33.—All other causes	13	5	18
	147	99	246

GENERAL PROVISION OF THE HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

The personnel comprising the administrative staff, together with their qualifications, is indicated at the beginning of this Report.

The following services are available:—

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Chemical analysis and Bacteriological examinations of water; also the bacteriological examinations of Milk are carried out at the expense of the Urban District.

The Clinical Research Association and the Liverpool and Chester laboratories are used for the investigation of disease at the public expense.

Food and Drugs administration is carried out by the County Council and their officers submit samples for examination by the County Analyst.

The number of swabs examined for B. Diphtheria was 392.

There were 383 throat swabs of which 20 were returned positive and 363 negative; also nine nasal swabs of which two were returned positive and seven negative.

The number of specimens of sputa examined for B. Tuberculosis in the County Laboratory was 50. Of these seven were returned positive and 43 were negative.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

(a) For infectious cases, the Wirral Joint Hospital Board provides motor Ambulances for the removal of patients, and for the removal of bedding for steam disinfection.

(b) For Non-infectious and Accident cases, the Urban District provides a motor Ambulance for use in connection with the District Hospital, Whitby. The Clatterbridge (County) General Hospital has two motor Ambulances.

The Ambulance Services are very satisfactory.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

(a) *General.* There is a District Nursing Organisation which provides a trained nurse in Ellesmere Port whose services are partially retained by the Council. Subscriptions from charitable persons and small charges for services rendered support the organisation.

There is still need for a District Nurse in the Parish of Little Sutton and it is hoped that one will be provided in the near future.

(b) *For Infectious Diseases.* There are no arrangements made for nursing infectious cases in the home, with the exception of Pneumonia.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

These are held at the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, York Road, Ellesmere Port. A second Child Welfare Centre was opened at Little Sutton in 1938 and full advantage has been taken by the residents in that area. The work of the Centres is purely of an advisory nature and no treatment is undertaken.

Orthopaedic, Aural and Ante-natal Clinics are organised under the supervision of Specialists.

A school clinic with Dental and Ophthalmic Services, is provided by the County Council and is held at the Welfare Centre.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Summary of Inspections.

Nature of Inspections	Number,	Result of Service of Notices:			
		Notices served.			
		Formal	Statutory	Complied with	Remaining in hand
Dwelling Houses (General)	183	157	23	126	31
Revisits to inspect work in progress...	691	—	—	—	—
Schools	20	—	—	—	—
Backyards	705	350	12	346	4
Privies, Cesspools, Septic Tanks, etc. ...	37	1	—	1	—
Drainage Inspections	16	—	—	—	—
Drainage Tests	4	—	—	—	—
Stitches and Watercourses	11	5	2	5	—
Offensive Accumulations	14	4	1	4	—
Keeping of Animals	10	—	—	—	—
Offensive Trades	1	1	—	1	—
Abattoir	165	—	—	—	—
Food Premises	461	9	1	9	—
Factories (Mobile)	21	4	—	4	—
Factories (Non-Mobile)	18	—	—	—	—
Wiggeries	6	—	—	—	—
Cowsheds	99	1	—	1	—
Dairies and Purveyors' Premises	30	—	—	—	—
Canal Boats	59	—	—	—	—
Infectious Disease Enquiries	209	—	—	—	—
Infectious Disease Other Visits	376	—	—	—	—
Disinfections	263	—	—	—	—
Visits re verminous premises	127	—	—	—	—
Disinfestations	187	—	—	—	—
Rat Infestations	27	—	—	—	—
Samples of milk submitted for bacterio- logical examination	89	—	—	—	—
Samples of water submitted for examination	4	—	—	—	—
Shops Acts Inspections	8	—	—	—	—
Air Raid Shelters	77	—	—	—	—
Air Raid Shelters, Disinfections	558	—	—	—	—
Mortuary	3	—	—	—	—
Inspections, Refuse Disposal Site... ..	19	—	—	—	—
Reference to other Departments	19	—	—	—	—
Interviews	138	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous Visits	148	7	—	7	—
TOTALS ...	4806	539	39	504	35

In nine instances, warning letters were sent by the Clerk of the Council, to the Owners concerned, in respect of the non-compliance with Statutory Notices served upon them under the Public Health Act, 1936, prior to any legal proceedings being instituted against them. Eight notices were complied with satisfactorily and no further action was necessary. In the remaining instance legal proceedings were instituted to secure compliance. This prosecution was successful.

During the year 102 dust bins were supplied and delivered by the Department on receiving payment from the Owners in order to enable them to comply with sanitary notices. Forty-six dust bins were transferred to the Housing Department for delivery to Council houses on the service of sanitary notices.

In addition to letters received requesting an inspection of premises, 387 verbal complaints were made at the office during the year.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF WATER

Four samples of water were obtained during the year for examination. The reports of these samples were satisfactory, details of which are shown below.

Water supply and date sample taken	Bacteria per c.c.		Total Coliform Organisms per 100 c.c.	B. Welchii	Remarks
	at 37deg. C.	at 22 deg.C.			
Scullery water tap, 6, Rock Cottages, Chester Road, Little Sutton. 28th April, 1942. Tap flamed.	0.	18.	0	0	Highly satisfactory.
Scullery water tap, 16, York Road, Ellesmere Port. 16th July, 1942.	0.	0.	0	0	Highly satisfactory.

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF WATER.

Water supply and date when the sample was taken.	Total solid matter in solution.	Oxygen required to oxidise in; 15 mins. 3 hrs.	Ammonia	Ammonia from Organic Matter.	Nitrogen as Nitrates	Nitrogen as Nitrites	Combined Chlorine	Temporary Hardness	Permanent Hardness	Total Hardness
Scullery water tap, 6, Rock Cottages, Chester Road, Little Sutton, 28th April, 1942. Tap flamed.	67.28.	None.	0.003.	None.	0.13.	None.	23.5	18.3	7.0	25.3
Remarks: The sample was clear, very faintly yellow and odourless. It was free from solid matter in suspension. The water organically is very pure and though moderately hard and containing an undue proportion of salt, is quite fit for human consumption.										
Scullery water tap, 16, York Road, E. Port 16th July, 1942.	39.44	0.004.	None.	0.002.	Traces.	None.	24.10	17.5	7.5	25.0
Remarks: The sample was clear, colourless and odourless. It contained only a minute trace of suspended matter which consisted of vegetable debris and particles of siliceous matter. The water is moderately hard and although containing an undue proportion of salt is quite fit for human consumption.										

ERADICATION OF BED-BUGS.

The number of houses found to be infested during the year was :—

(a) Council Houses	10
(b) Other Houses	29
(c) Number Disinfested	39
(d) Total Visits	101

The methods employed for freeing infested houses from bed-bugs consists of (i) the removal of picture mouldings, architraves and the skirting boards, and whilst these are being removed a blow-lamp is used; (ii) the walls, ceilings and floors etc. are sprayed with a fluid insecticide (Zaldecide) with satisfactory results; (iii) bedding is subjected to steam disinfection.

Further visits are paid at varying intervals up to three weeks and the house alternately fumigated and sprayed during this period.

The work of disinfection is carried out by the Local Authority through the staff of the Public Health Department.

STEAM DISINFECTION OF BEDDING.

The arrangements made during the year 1941 with a neighbouring authority in respect of the steam disinfection of bedding from verminous premises, scabies and patients who have suffered from an infectious disease, except those who have been removed to Isolation Hospital, continues to be carried out satisfactorily.

HOUSING.

1. <i>Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year.</i>		
1. (a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts)	183
(b)	Number of Inspections made for the purpose	691
2. (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head 1) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932	Nil.
(b)	Number of Inspections made for the purpose	Nil.
3.	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	Nil.
4.	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	3
2. <i>Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notice.</i>		
	Number of dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	3
3. <i>Action under Statutory Powers during the year.</i>		
A. <i>Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act 1936.</i>		
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil.
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notices :—	
(a)	By owners	Nil.
(b)	By Local Authority	Nil.

B. Proceedings under the Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	23
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notices :—	
(a) By owners	18
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil.
(c) Remaining in hand	5

C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 Housing Act 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which demolition orders were made	Nil.
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders	Nil.

D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act 1936.

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil.
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply. There are 33 registered cowkeepers, 15 dairies and 14 milk-shops in the district. In addition 14 milk purveyors bring milk into the district from outside, and there are 3 registered wholesalers resident outside the area.

The Register shows the following entries :

Cowkeepers (Wholesale Producers)	23
Cowkeepers (Retail Producers)	10
Dairies and Milk-shops	29
Total Registered Milk Dealers in the district...	62
Wholesalers resident outside the district	3
Retailers distributing milk into the district from outside	14
Total number of Milk Dealers on the Register	79

89 samples of milk were obtained for examination and sent to the bacteriologist for examination. Each sample taken at the farm was done so during the early morning milking and examined as follows:—

Accredited Farms—Standard for this designation, plus examination for Tuberculosis.

Commercial Farms—Tuberculosis, *Bacillus coli* and Colony Count.

Of 58 samples examined for Tuberculosis, 4 were returned positive showing a percentage of 6.8 on the number examined. Three of the positive samples were from Accredited Farms.

Particular attention has been paid to the sampling of milk, in an endeavour to obtain a high standard of cleanliness both in production and handling. Of these samples examined, 62 or 69 per cent. were found to be satisfactory. When a sample obtained from a farm in the district fails the prescribed test.

a visit is paid in each instance to the farm in order to give advice where necessary. The Sanitary Inspector of the appropriate Local Authority is informed of any samples found on examination not satisfactory and which were from persons retailing milk in the district but resident outside.

The closest co-operation is afforded by the County Public Health Department through the Assistant County Sanitary Inspector, in matters relative to accredited farms and this is greatly appreciated.

Two Dealers' Licences are issued by the Local Authority under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938. Food Premises.—No applications for registration of food premises were received during the year under review.

There are 58 premises in the district registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act.

Constant attention has been given to all food premises and 461 visits were paid during the year. The standard of cleanliness is very satisfactory. It is pleasing to report all the main food shops now comply with the requirements of the Act relative to the provision of a hot water supply.

Public Abattoir.—The Ministry of Food ceased to utilise the abattoir on the 31st July, 1942, since then no slaughtering has taken place. This step was greatly regretted by the department who realized how smoothly the inspection service had been carried out, whereas with the ultimate change, difficulties arose in this respect and 100 per cent. meat inspection has not been guaranteed.

165 visits were paid during the first seven months of the year for the purpose of inspection whilst slaughtering was in progress.

The following table shows the number of carcasses inspected at the Abattoir; also the number of whole carcasses, portions of carcasses and organs rejected on account of their unfitness for human consumption giving a total weight of 6 tons 9 cwts 66 lbs.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Total
Number killed	187	232	188	2203	15	2825
Number inspected	187	232	188	2203	15	2825
All diseases except						
Tuberculosis:						
Whole carcasses rejected...	—	2	2	3	—	7
Carcasses of which some part or organ was rejected	40	49	3	51	2	145
Percentages of the num- ber inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	21.3	21.9	2.6	2.4	13.3	5.3
Tuberculosis Only.						
Whole carcasses rejected...	3	15	—	—	—	18
Carcasses of which some part or organ was rejected	17	93	—	—	2	112
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	10.6	46.5	—	—	13.3	4.5

58 special visits were paid to food premises at the request of the Owners, and the following foods were rejected:—

190 (6lbs.) tins Meat (Various Types).
 59 (1½lbs.) tins Meat (Various Types).
 7 (12ozs.) tins Meat (Various Types).
 65 tins Tomatoes.
 115 tins Vegetables (Various Types).
 705 tins Milk (Various Types).
 74 tins Fruit (Various Types).
 39 tins Fish (Various Types).

—Blown Tins and Decomposition.

72½lbs. Meat (Chilled Beef)—Bone Taint.
 492 lbs. Fish (Various Types)—Decomposition.
 17 lbs. Sausages—Decomposition.
 44½lbs. Cheese—Decomposition.
 2 cwts. Potatoes—Decomposition.
 14½lbs. Dried Fruits—Mould.
 306 (½lb.) Coffee—Mould.

Total weight (approx.)—1 ton 8 cwts. 97 lbs.

MEAT INSPECTION—BEBINGTON.

In view of the extra amount of slaughtering taking place at Bebington now that our own abattoir was not in use, representations were made by that authority for assistance in the work of meat inspection. Arrangements were made and assistance was given but unfortunately it was later found impossible to continue with this arrangement owing to extra work devolving on the department. 25 visits were paid for the purpose of this work.

The number of animals inspected from the 15th September, 1942, to the end of the year was 1,869. The total weight of meat rejected during this period as being Unfit for Human consumption was 1 ton 10 cwts. 85 lbs.

DECONTAMINATION OF FOODSTUFFS

The scheme of arrangements for the district relative to the important work of food decontamination is complete and all enrolled personnel fully trained. A small scale exercise was held at the close of the year when an incident at food premises was staged and a treatment site (Rivacre Valley Swimming Pool) opened for the reception and treatment of affected food-stuffs. The Divisional Gas Liaison Officer of the Ministry of Food attended the exercise and expressed himself very satisfied with the work carried out.

Regular weekly meetings of personnel are held at the depot in order to stimulate interest, and keep abreast with any new instructions issued by the Ministry of Food.

CANAL BOATS.

60 boats were inspected during the year, and these were registered to carry 186 Adults and 72 Children.

The actual number found to be in occupation was 108 Adults, 62 Children.

No Statutory Notices were served.

One case of Infectious Disease occurred during the year and the boat was detained whilst disinfection was carried out.

SAMPLING OF FOOD AND DRUGS.

The Chief Inspector of the Weights and Measures Department to the Cheshire County Council has kindly supplied me with the following particulars of samples obtained in the Urban District of Ellesmere Port and forwarded to the Public Analyst during the year ended 31st December, 1942.

*List of Samples obtained in the Ellesmere Port Urban
District during the year ended 31st December, 1942.*

Name of Sample	Number of Samples obtained.	Number adulterated or not up to the recognised standard of quality
Aspirin Tablets	1	
Bicarbonate of Soda	1	
Boracic Acid	1	
Butter	1	
Blanc Mange Powder	1	
Bun Flour Sweetened	1	1
Castor Oil	2	
Cod Liver Oil and Malt	1	
Camphorated Oil	2	
Cooking Fat	1	
Custard Powder Sweetened	1	
Egg Substitute	1	
Fish Paste	1	
Glauber Salts	1	1
Ginger Wine Essence	1	
Iodine Tincture	1	
Liquorice Powder	1	
Milk	43	2
Margarine	1	
Mustard Oil	1	
Meat Extract	1	
Malt Loaf		
Raspberry Cordial		
Sage and Onion Stuffing		
Seidlitz Powder		
Sauce		
Steamed Pudding Mixture		1
Wintergreen Ointment	2	
	73	5

It will be observed that five samples were certified by the Public Analyst as failing to reach the recognised standard of quality and the following are particulars of these non-standard samples :—

(1) *Sweetened Bun Flour.*

Certified to contain .15 per cent. of undeclared Saccharin. The Public Analyst maintains that if saccharin is present in foodstuffs it should be declared, otherwise the sale is to the pre-judice of the purchaser. The manufacturers were informed of the Analyst's opinion.

(2) *Steamed Pudding Mixture.*

.25 per cent. undeclared saccharin. See remarks to No. 1 above.

(3) *Glauber Salts.*

Certified as being a sample of anhydrous sodium sulphate. Subsequently found to be due to the container having been

in the shop for nearly 3 years. Glauber Salts consists of hydrated sodium sulphate. Storage under unsuitable conditions causes substance to be converted to anhydrous sodium sulphate and it thereby becomes more potent. Manufacturers were warned and are now experimenting with a new type of container.

(4) *Milk (Formal).*

Contained 18 per cent. of extraneous water. This sample was *offered* to the Inspector by a shopkeeper at the time another sample was being taken in the shop. The Inspector would not have known of its existence had it not been voluntarily produced from a refrigerator. The bottle was delivered on previous day by the producer. Samples were taken some days later from producer but found to be genuine. Shopkeeper was cautioned.

(5) Certified as being 28.3 per cent. deficient in fat. This was a bottle of milk handed to me by your own Sanitary Inspector—he having received it from a householder who complained of its pinkish colour. Microscopical examination showed this was due to the presence of traces of blood. The pint bottle was only two - thirds full when handed in and there is no doubt that the fat deficiency was due to the householder having poured the cream off for use before taking the bottle to the Sanitary Inspector.

You will thus see that apart from No. 4 there was nothing very serious in any of the samples submitted for analysis.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR, 1942

DISEASE	Total Cases Notified.	Total cases admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	32	4	Nil.
Diphtheria	165	164 (27 neg).	7
Erysipelas	1	Nil.	Nil.
Pneumonia	3	2	Nil.
Measles	44	Nil.	Nil.
Cerebro-spinal Fever	3	3	1
Whooping Cough	2	Nil.	1.
	250	173	9

(Of the cases of Diphtheria notified, 35 were stated to have been immunised against this disease. 27 of these 35 were reported by the Hospital Authorities to be positive cases.

TABLE SHOWING DISTRIBUTION IN WARDS OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CASES.

Disease	North East	North West	South	Whitby	Stanney	Victoria	Pool and Hooton	Childer Thornton	Little Sutton	Great Sutton	Grange	Ince	Total
Scarlet Fever	1	1	1	1	3	7	7	1	3	1	6	—	32
Diphtheria	10	8	29	3	—	52	6	2	14	6	34	1	165
Cerebro-spinal Fever	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	3
Pneumonia	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	3
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	—	1	6	—	—	4	3	—	3	1	2	—	20
Non-pulmon. do	—	1	1	2	—	1	2	—	3	3	—	—	13
Measles	4	3	1	3	—	1	1	—	19	8	4	—	44
Whooping Cough..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2
	16	14	38	11	4	67	19	3	42	19	49	1	283

(Deduct cases which on investigation proved negative) Diphtheria 27
256

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods		New Cases				Deaths.			
		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0— 1 year	...	—	—	3	2	—	—	—	—
1— 5 years	...	—	—	4	2	—	—	—	—
5—15 years.	...	1	—	—	1	1	1	—	—
15—25 years	...	2	6	1	—	—	—	1	—
25—35 years	...	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45 years	...	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
45—55 years	...	3	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
55—65 years	...	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
65 and upwards...	...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
		11	9	8	5	5	2	1	—

TABLE OF AGE GROUPS, SHOWING THE TOTAL NOTIFIED CASES AND DEATHS, 1942.

Disease.	TOTAL Cases	TOTAL Deaths	Total		0-1		1-2		2-3		3-4		4-5		5-10		10-15		15-20		20-35		35-45		45-65		Over 65	
			M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Scarlet Fever	250	9	119	131	2	1	5	4	8	5	7	6	9	10	45	42	30	23	2	15	7	17	4	5	...	1	...	1
Diphtheria	...	...	14	18	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	1	3	1	7	11	1	1	...	...	1	2	...	1	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-spinal Fever	165	8	75	90	...	...	1	2	2	2	3	2	5	5	30	27	27	20	2	13	5	15	2	4	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia	3	3	2	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	...	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	44	...	24	20	...	1	3	2	4	3	...	3	4	...	8	3	2	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

ORTHOPAEDIC CLINIC.

Dr. Hartley Martin reports as follows:—

I have the honour to report on the work done at the Ellesmere Port Orthopaedic Clinic during the 12 months ended December, 1942.

17 sessions have been held at which 85 new cases have been seen and 338 re-examinations made—an average of 25 cases per session.

These figures are given below in greater detail:—

				<i>In relation to school age :</i>		
<i>New Cases—</i>				<i>Under</i>	<i>of</i>	<i>Over</i>
Non-Tuberculous	...	...		57	26	—
Tuberculous	...	...	...	—	1	1
<i>Re-Examinations—</i>						
Non-Tuberculous	...	...		133	188	5
Tuberculous	...	...	...	—	9	3

Table 1 shows all cases on the clinic register arranged into disease categories and age groups. The numbers of cases discharged are also shown, the reason for discharge being given.

Of the 220 (non-tuberculous) cases on the register during the year, 3 or 1.4 per cent. have been admitted to hospital for treatment. These cases comprise of:—

Congenital Deformities 2 cases—

Stay in hospital 285 days.

Acquired Deformities 1 case—

Stay in hospital 5 days.

The total number of hospital days was 290 (92 per cent. being devoted to children under school age).

The work done by the Massage and Remedial Exercise Department (twice weekly sessions) continued to give great help in preventive and curative treatment.

949 treatments have been given to the 46 cases on the Massage register, 15 new cases have been referred for treatment and 23 discharged.

Table II, shows these cases analysed into disease groups and age categories. By means of the attendance, the proportion

of the Masseuse's time devoted to each age group can be reduced.

It will be seen that of the new cases 67 per cent. were referred by the Child Welfare Service, whose co-operation in the ascertainment of cases is of much valued assistance.

Ellesmere Port Orthopaedic Clinic.
Return for the Year 1942.

Visits by Surgeon	...	...	...	...	...	17
Attendances by Orthopaedic Sister	...	...	...	...	...	50
New Cases examined	...	...	...	...	...	85
Re-Examinations	...	...	...	...	...	338

Analysis of Cases.

		Under School		Of School		Over School	
		Age		Age		Age	
New Cases :—		Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
Non-Tuberculous ...	26	31	10	16	—	—	
Tuberculous ...	—	—	1	—	—	1	
Re-Examinations :—							
Non-Tuberculous ...	58	75	103	85	3	2	
Tuberculous ...	—	—	2	7	1	2	

Massage and Remedial Exercise Department.

	Boys	Girls	Total
Number of Patients Treated	24	22	46
Number of Attendances of Cases ...	602	347	949
Number of New Cases Referred for Treatment	6	9	15
Number of Cases in which treatment has been Terminated	12	11	23

Analysis of Non-Tuberculous Cases included in above Return

	Under School		Of School		Over School	
	Age		Age		Age	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
Attending School	...	—	—	—	—	—
Not Attending School	...	—	—	—	—	—
Attending Special School	...	—	—	—	—	—

TABLE 1.

DISEASE CATEGORIES	Remaining 1941 in relation to School Age			New Cases 1942 in relation to School Age			Remaining 1942 in relation to School Age			Discharged 1942							
	Under	of	Over	Under	of	Over	Under	of	Over	Cured	Relieved	Over-age—Relieved	Left District	Refused Treatment	Unsuitable	Died.	
Infantile Paralysis	1	7	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Spastic Paralysis	...	5	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Rickets	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
T.B. (Osteitis and Arthritis)	2	5	1	...	1	1	...	6	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Non-T.B. do.	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Deformities—Congenital	11	20	1	9	...	...	17	12	...	1	...	4	3	4	...	...	...
Deformities—Acquired.	43	31	...	32	14	...	50	28	1	20	...	...	6	15	...	...	...
Diagnosis	11	5	...	14	11	...	9	3	...	...	...	...	1	5	22	...	1
TOTALS	69	74	2	57	27	1	78	62	3	22	1	6	10	24	23	1	...

MISSAGE RETURN.

TABLE 2.

DISEASE CATEGORIES	ATTENDANCES								CASES	
	OF SCHOOL AGE				UNDER SCHOOL AGE.				Number of Cases	Per cent of Total Cases
	Attending School	Not Attending School	Attending Special School	Not Attending Special School	Boys		Girls			
					Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls		
Infantile Paralysis	114	...	...	69	...	...	...	6	12.9	
Spastic Paralysis	83	...	...	24	...	...	...	4	8.65	
Rickets	...	...	...	11	...	...	...	...	...	
T.B. (Osteitis and Arthritis)	30	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	6.45	
Non-T.B. do	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Congenital Deformities	147	...	...	65	...	...	...	11	24	
Acquired Deformities	203	...	...	174	...	25	4	22	48.	
TOTALS	577	...	...	343	...	25	4	46	...	

TOTALS	...	...	...	...	920	29
PERCENTAGES	...	...	...	...	96.9 per cent.	3.1 per cent.

ORTHOPAEDIC AFTER-CARE CLINIC.

Return for the Year 1942.

Visits by Surgeon	...	...	...	...	...	17
Attendances by Orthopaedic Sister	...	...	...	...	...	50
Attendances by Masseuse	...	...	...	...	...	89

		NON-TUBERCULOUS						TUBERCULOUS					
		Under School Age		Of School Age		Over School Age		Under School Age		Of School Age		Over School Age	
		Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
NEW CASES:	Surgeon	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Masseuse	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
ATTENDANCES:	Surgeon	26	31	10	16	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
	Masseuse	1	2	5	7	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
DISCHARGES:	Surgeon	58	75	103	85	5	2	...	...	2	7	1	2
	Masseuse	25	4	547	532	...	...	...	...	30	11	...	...
TOTAL on Register at end of Year	Surgeon	See Table 1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Masseuse	4	1	7	9	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The following report is supplied by the Senior Health Visitor.

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS AND HEALTH VISITING.

During the year 558 births were notified and 24 stillbirths.

173 of these occurred in Spital Maternity Hospital.

18 in Chester Nursing Home.

3 in Liverpool Maternity Hospital.

1 in Heswall Nursing Home.

1 in Frodsham Nursing Home.

1 in West Kirby Nursing Home.

1 in Morecombe Nursing Home.

1 in Birkenhead Maternity Hospital.

1 in Egerton Nursing Home.

1 in Bowny Hospital, Nantwich.

8271 visits were paid by the Health Visitors in the Homes during the year as follows:—

1st visits to infants	513
Revisits to infants	2902
Revisits to children, 1—5 years ...	4181
Pre-Natal visits	156
Visits to school children	152
Incidental visits... ..	367
	8271

Routine visits are paid at regular intervals to babies from the time the midwife finishes her attendance till the child enters school at 5 years of age.

Instructions and advice are given on the care and management of young children, diet, general rules of health, and hygiene—the primary object being the prevention of ill-health and disease. For this purpose information is given systematically on vaccination and immunisation against Diphtheria.

Minor ailments are dealt with, but in more serious conditions the mother is always advised to see her own doctor. Any sanitary defects found in the house are referred to the Sanitary Inspector. The advice of the nurse is often sought on matters relating to the family budget and economic difficulties.

All mothers attending the Ante-Natal Clinic are visited in their homes if they do not appear at the clinic at regular intervals.

Visits to school children include visits of foster children, visits to cases of infectious diseases. Diphtheria contacts have swabs taken when necessary and, children discharged from hospital after Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever are visited also.

Incidental calls include visits to works, schools, midwives, attendance officer, Public Assistance official, Unemployment Exchange and the Milk Office—with all of whom there is the closest co-operation.

The total number of visits show a decrease this year due to the fact that many more clinics have been held, and more time has been spent on the swabbing of Diphtheria contacts.

Vitamins are now supplied at the Milk Office. There are still many mothers not taking advantage of these additions to their children's diet.

It is extraordinary that when the Government is making every effort to ensure that young children shall come through this war with a good standard of health, the mothers of these children are so indifferent that they ignore their privileges and neglect their children.

ANTE-NATAL CLINIC.

This Clinic is held weekly—on Wednesday afternoons.

360 mothers attended for the first time.

1584 further attendances were made.

14 mothers attended for a post-natal examination.

1958 attendances in all.

Percentage of attendance in relation to births 63.4 per cent., an increase on last year.

STILL BIRTHS.

24 still-births were registered—these were due to the following causes:—

Ante-partum Haemorrhage...	4
Enemy Action	3
Malformation of Foetus	5
Obstructed and difficult labour...	3
Pre-natal shock	3
No apparent cause	6

7 of these attended the Ante-Natal Clinic and 6 were under their own doctor during pregnancy. In 3 cases their confinement took place in hospital.

Of the 7 who attended the Ante-Natal Clinic, 2 were due to Enemy Action, 2 to Placenta Previa, 1 to Pre-Natal shock, 1 to Malformation of Foetus and 1 to no apparent cause.

INFANT MORTALITY RATE.

20 infants died under the age of one year.

9 children died between the age of one and five years.

The following table shows the causes of death:—

Under one year:—

Over one year:—

Prematurity	6	Diphtheria... ..	2
Broncho-Pneumonia ...	5	Spina-Bifida	1
Feebleness at Birth ...	1	Broncho-Pneumonia ...	1
Congenital Hydrocephalus	1	Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	1
Toxaemia	1	Accident (Burns)	1
Multiple Congenital		Gastro Enteritis	1
Deformities	1	Toxaemia	1
Pertussis	1	Acute Intestinal	
Syncope	1	Obstruction	1
Birth Trauma	1		
Septicaemia	1		
Bronchitis... ..	1		

15 of these deaths occurred during the first three months, of these 11 died in the first month and 8 in the first week.

On taking a survey we cannot this year put down these deaths to unsatisfactory or overcrowded home conditions.

In 5 cases there was no apparent cause for the premature births and subsequent deaths.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Diphtheria.

11 Children were visited.

697 Children under 5 years were inoculated against Diphtheria.

1443 School children were also done.

An arrangement is made with the Head Teacher to give the mother a consent form when the child enters school. If this is signed, the teacher brings her new children at the beginning of each term.

In an effort to check the Diphtheria epidemic that occurred during the latter quarter of this year the swabbing of contacts were recommenced.

292 swabs were taken and of these 11 were positive.

Many mothers who had previously refused inoculation applied for this service. A drive was instituted and clinics were held twice weekly for 2 months. This involved a great deal of unnecessary work and expense.

For four years the mothers of these children had been urged to take advantage of this service and had they done so, the children could have been included on any of the routine sessions held each month for this purpose.

Scarlet Fever.

3—children discharged from hospital were seen.

Measles.

27 children were visited.

Whooping Cough.

16 children were visited.

Mumps.

3 children were visited.

Chicken Pox.

13 children were visited.

DENTAL CLINIC.

20 children were treated by the school dentist by arrangement with the Cheshire County Council.

AURAL CLINIC.

This clinic is held monthly.

49 children attended for the first time.

52 revisits were paid making a total attendance of 101. Since July we have been without an Aural Surgeon through the illness of Dr. Martin. Any serious condition has been referred to local Doctors, and treatment given at the centre, or the local District Hospital.

60 of these treatments were given.

ORTHOPAEDIC CLINIC.

3 sessions are held in two months on Monday afternoons.

2 sessions are held for massage and remedial exercises—On Monday and Thursday afternoons.

A separate report is given by Dr. Hartley Martin.

MOTHERCRAFT TO SCHOOLGIRLS.

Having been invited by the Housewifery Mistress to give lectures and demonstrations to the schoolgirls attending the Centre, this has been done at the beginning of every term by one of the Health Visitors.

INFANT LIFE PROTECTION.

5 Foster mothers were entered on the register, 2 from the previous year and 3 new ones. Of these 1 child is now over nine years of age, 2 having been transferred to a foster-mother in another town, leaving 4 remaining under supervision. All the children are well and happy, and those under school age are attending the Welfare Centre.

AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS.

All Health Visitors are on call for voluntary service at the hospital in the case of air raid at night. During the day the Health Visitors remain at the call of their mothers and children. A shelter is ready if any emergency should arise.

INFANT WELFARE CENTRE.

Two sessions are held weekly at Ellesmere Port on Tuesday and Friday afternoons, and once weekly at Little Sutton on Monday afternoons.

				LITTLE SUTTON	
First visits of mothers	...	...	481	171	
First visits of infants	...	...	372	125	
First visits of children,					
	1—5 years		145	55	
			998	351	
Revisits of mothers	...	...	4301	2213	
Revisits of infants	...	...	3581	1782	
Revisits of children	1—5 years		1052	520	
			8934	4515	

Percentage of attendance in relation to live births 86 per cent.

878 consultations were held by the Medical Officer of Health.

5 children were found to be suffering from carious teeth.

4 children were referred to the Aural Clinic.

1 child was referred to the Orthopaedic Clinic.

1 child was referred for the treatment of an eye defect.

2 children were referred to the District Hospital for Sun-Ray treatment.

296 consultations were held by the Medical Officer of Health in Little Sutton.

3 children were found to be suffering from carious teeth.

3 children were referred to the Aural Clinic.

2 children were referred to the Orthopaedic Clinic.

1 child was referred for the treatment of an eye defect.

Neither of these Centres could be efficiently administered without the valuable aid of the Voluntary Committee — who give unstinted service to the mothers. Their unfailing enthusiasm helps in a large measure to create an atmosphere that makes the Centre attractive to the mothers.

The Centre at Little Sutton is growing considerably and there, the duty of distributing vitamins has been undertaken exclusively by Councillor Mrs. Collins, and Mrs. Deakins who give an extra afternoon in the week for this purpose.

CLOTHING COUPONS.

Extra duties have been added to the already busy Ante-Natal Clinic. In addition to the individual advice given on general care, diet, clothing and preparation for natural feeding of the baby when born, forms for application for the supply of eggs are provided, and sanctioned by the staff.

Clothing coupons for Expectant Mothers can only be obtained at the Welfare Centre on the production of the National Registration card. Mothers not attending the Ante-Natal Clinic must also produce a certificate from their own doctor or midwife. Details of these facts have to be carefully kept together with the signature of the recipient.

DAY NURSERIES

After two year's discussion on this matter the nurseries were opened in September.

As more and more mothers are going into the factories the nurseries are justifying their existence.

For some months before the opening, a great deal of preliminary work was done through the channels of the Welfare Centre. When the matrons were appointed some weeks before the opening, they made the Centre their headquarters and were given every assistance possible from the Staff. By this means complete co-operation was established between the Public Health Department and the Day Nurseries, and week by week each are proving of value to the other.

In spite of efforts over many years to avoid this action, the R.S.P.C.C, found it necessary this year to take one of the mothers into court for neglect. On the first occasion she was bound over for six months, no improvement occurred, and in December this year the case was re-opened.

The mother was fined £5 or a month's imprisonment. The children were referred to the Juvenile Court and the magistrate there, decided that the mother was unfit to look after children. Arrangements have been made for two of the children to go into Dr. Barnado's Homes, and four to the care of foster parents.

I regret to report that there are many other mothers showing a lack of care and sense of responsibility towards their children during their husband's absence. There has been a marked deterioration in the standard of the homes during the last year or two. While every consideration is given to mothers who work both in the factory and in the home, there are still some, who, when they are at home, show very little interest in their home and children.



